

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a gene controlling the flowering time of plants, and a method for manipulating the flowering time of plants using the gene.

- 5 More particularly, the present invention relates to a *LOVI* gene controlling the flowering time of plants, which is isolated from *Arabidopsis thaliana*, and also to a method for either delaying the flowering time of plants by overexpressing the *LOVI* gene in the plants, or inducing the early flowering of the plants by repressing the expression of the *LOVI* gene in the plants.

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